

Great Writers Use “Great” Words

Many times when I sit down to read and write, I think about how far I have improved in both areas since I was a little girl. When I say improve, I mean my teachers, parents and friends say I am a good writer. So, I know that I am not just a “writer in my own mind.” I remember writing a speech in social studies class last year about how to be good citizen and my teacher kept bragging on my ideas and words that I used. But reading is just not my thing! I think I am a better writer. I get bored with certain books and their silly characters. I can use my own imagination and create better characters. I know I can. I enjoy drawing characters and making up names for them. They come to life right in front of my eyes. My dad said I should be an art teacher, but I want to be a writer. A writer leaves something behind when they die. They leave wonderful words that make people cry, laugh, or just think. In the year 2020, I want kids in the 7th grade to be reading one of my books.

As a little girl in the third grade, I loved to go to the library at school and pick thick chapter books off the shelves and begin to read all the words on the page. I sometimes would get lost in the story and finish the book. However, most the time I wouldn't finish the book just because I lost interest in what I was reading. Sometimes the words were so hard to pronounce I had to keep a dictionary close by and look up every other word. This discouraged me at first because I knew that I could never be a writer if I didn't know a bunch of big words.

Now as a writer (my teacher calls me that) in middle school, I know how powerful words can be. Somehow words (big and little) get into peoples minds and make them change their thinking. I wrote an article in science class last year that persuaded the principal to start a recycling club here at the school. I was tired of hearing people at ballgames talk about what a trashy school we have. I was honored at the end of the year for my article and received a medal. The principal asked me (the writer) to say a few words to the students and parents in the school assembly. I was speechless! I didn't know what words to say. I wanted to say something very memorable. You know what came out of my mouth. You are not going to believe this. I said, “Kids you did a cool job

cleaning up the school.” As soon as the little words came out of my mouth, I knew that I sounded so silly. Great writers should use “great” words.

How can I get these words in my mind? I sit in science class, social studies class, reading class, and computer class day after day and hear words, and then I forget them the minute I walk out of the room. I have decided to keep a word journal and record all the new words that I hear. I will try to find the meaning and then try to use the words in writing or talking. This might work!

In literature class, my teacher always tells the class the more we read and talk the more words we will learn. Well, I felt a little discouraged because I don’t read very well. Maybe, if I try just talking to smart people, I will learn words that way. I hate to say this, but I spend most my time with my friends Debbie, Pat and Cheryl at school. Unfortunately they are not very smart. So, I am going to try to increase my reading. Slow at first and then who knows maybe Shakespeare next, whoever that is.

I know that I have some great words in my mind that need to come out. However, I want to learn more words to go with those words, so that I can become that famous writer someday or maybe a writing teacher.

Most people remember most of the important times in their lives. However, I can remember a not so important time several years ago when I was sitting outside on a summer day looking at the clouds listening to my favorite country song thinking about what I wanted to be when I grew up. Then, I didn’t really know. Now I know.

Reflective Writing Middle School

Annotated only for content

Great Writers Use "Great" Words

title helps
reader understand
growth as a
writer

area of
growth in
literacy

Many times when I sit down to read and write, I think about how far I have improved in both areas since I was a little girl. When I say improve, I mean my teachers, parents and friends say I am a good writer. So, I know that I am not just a

attempts to
support claim
about growth

"writer in my own mind." I remember writing a speech in social studies class last year about how to be good citizen and my teacher kept bragging on my ideas and words that I used. But reading is just not my thing! I think I am a better writer. I get bored with certain books and their silly characters. I can use my own imagination and create better characters. I know I can. I enjoy drawing characters and making up names for them.

broad
connection
to literacy
evidence of
voice

They come to life right in front of my eyes. My dad said I should be an art teacher, but I want to be a writer. A writer leaves something behind when they die. They leave wonderful words that make people cry, laugh, or just think. In the year 2020, I want kids in the 7th grade to be reading one of my books.

begins idea of needing to
grow as a writer of great
words

As a little girl in the third grade, I loved to go to the library at school and pick thick chapter books off the shelves and begin to read all the words on the page. I sometimes would get lost in the story and finish the book. However, most the time I wouldn't finish the book just because I lost interest in what I was reading. Sometimes the words were so hard to pronounce I had to keep a dictionary close by and look up every other word. This discouraged me at first because I knew that I could never be a writer if I didn't know a bunch of big words.

analyses
about being
a writer

Now as a writer (my teacher calls me that) in middle school, I know how powerful words can be. Somehow words (big and little) get into peoples minds and make them change their thinking. I wrote an article in science class last year that persuaded the principal to start a recycling club here at the school. I was tired of hearing people at ballgames talk about what a trashy school we have. I was honored at the end of the year for my article and received a medal. The principal asked me (the writer) to say a few words to the students and parents in the school assembly. I was speechless! I didn't know what words to say. I wanted to say something very memorable. You know what came out of my mouth. You are not going to believe this. I said, "Kids you did a cool job

audience
awareness

claim
about self
as a writer
decision/goal
about writing

literacy
connection
continues
discussion
of growth as
a writer
voice

voice

cleaning up the school." As soon as the little words came out of my mouth, I knew that I sounded so silly. Great writers should use "great" words. — *analysis of "great" writers*

analyses area of growth
How can I get these words in my mind? I sit in science class, social studies class, reading class, and computer class day after day and hear words, and then I forget them the minute I walk out of the room. I have decided to keep a word journal and record all the new words that I hear. I will try to find the meaning and then try to use the words in writing or talking. This might work! } *decision about literacy goal strategy*

describes strategy to reach literacy goal
In literature class, my teacher always tells the class the more we read and talk the more words we will learn. Well, I felt a little discouraged because I don't read very well. Maybe, if I try just talking to smart people, I will learn words that way. I hate to say this, but I spend most my time with my friends Debbie, Pat and Cheryl at school. *strategy*

Unfortunately they are not very smart. So, I am going to try to increase my reading. — *reading connection*
Slow at first and then who knows maybe Shakespeare next, whoever that is. — *voice*

continues discussion about growth as a writer
I know that I have some great words in my mind that need to come out. However, I want to learn more words to go with those words, so that I can become that famous writer someday or maybe a writing teacher. — *reflection*

literacy goal
Most people remember most of the important times in their lives. However, I can remember a not so important time several years ago when I was sitting outside on a summer day looking at the clouds listening to my favorite country song thinking about what I wanted to be when I grew up. Then, I didn't really know. Now I know.

The ending leaves the reader thinking. The writer assumes the reader knows the answer is "writer."